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Security Council

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GENERAL

S/1997/143
19 February 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 18 FEBRUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that 4,410 unexploded munitions, missiles and mines left behind by the 1991 30-Power aggression against Iraq were found and disposed of in all parts of Iraq between 1 and 31 January 1997. The items included American-made cluster bombs as well as spherical bombs, strip bombs and air-dropped containers, and they were found in the following governorates: Baghdad, Ta'mim, Anbar, Diyala, Babil, Wasit, Ninawa, Muthanna, Dhi Qar and Basrah.

The number of unexploded bombs of all types and sizes dropped during the period of the aggression against Iraq in 1991 and rendered harmless by Iraqi civil defence units between 1991 and 1996 was 352,373, broken down as follows: 181,812 in 1991; 38,532 in 1992; 34,484 in 1993; 19,255 in 1994; 54,888 in 1995; and 23,402 in 1996.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-04389 (E) 200297 200297

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S/1997/144
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LETTER DATED 18 FEBRUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of an incident that took place on 11 February 1997. At 1200 hours on that day two Kuwaiti gunboats armed with PKT machine-guns were observed near buoy 15. They directed random fire towards the Iraqi side before returning in the direction of Kuwait.

I request your intervention with Kuwait with a view to halting the repeated acts of aggression being committed by Kuwaiti gunboats against Iraq and ensuring that they do not recur. Such acts are in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and public international law, and they have the effect of creating a state of instability and unrest in this part of the region. I also affirm the legally established right of the Republic of Iraq to seek compensation for the damage caused to its property by this act of aggression, in accordance with the principle of State responsibility.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-04395 (E) 200297 200297

UNITED NATIONS **S**

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S/1997/145
19 February 1997
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LETTER DATED 18 FEBRUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States and British aircraft continued over the period 1 to 15 February 1997 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

You are requested to intervene with these countries with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-04401 (E) 200297 200297 210297

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Annex

Violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused, 1-15 February 1997

1. In the northern region 55 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Amadiyah, Zakho, Ayn Sifni, Aqrah and Badush.

2. In the southern region 755 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Qurnah, Qal'at Salih, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Rumaythah, Salman, Busayyah, Jalibah, Artawi, Amarah, Chabaish, Lasaf, Nu'maniyah, Hayy, Razzazah South, Basra, Najaf, Ushbayjah, Shithathah, Ukhaydir, Iskandariyah, Hashimiyah, Hillah, Talhah, Habbariyah, Taqtaqanah and Maymunah.

3. On 13 occasions United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 20,000 metres violated the Republic of Iraq's airspace in the southern region before leaving in the direction of Kuwait.

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 18 FEBRUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UGANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement issued by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda regarding the situation in eastern Zaire and the ever endless, baseless allegations by diverse sources against Uganda.

I would like to request you to bring the contents of the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council. I also request that the text of the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Semakula KIWANUKA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-04559 (E) 210297

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Annex

Statement of the Uganda Government
on the current situation in Zaire

The Government of the Republic of Uganda would like to put on record its position regarding events in eastern Zaire.

For some years it has been common knowledge that a number of rebel groups have had their bases in Zaire. In November 1996, those rebels crossed into Uganda from Zaire, thereby attacking Ugandan territory. The Uganda People's Defence Force took action to deal with that aggression. The rebels were ejected from Uganda. Today, there are no Ugandan soldiers in Zaire and the Government of Uganda has no intention whatsoever to send troops into Zaire.

Uganda is party to and accepts unconditionally the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and most especially those relating to the sanctity of international boundaries and non-interference in the affairs of our neighbours.

Uganda has no territorial ambitions, and has no interest in perpetuating conflicts currently going on in Zaire. Uganda has always been ready and is still prepared to use its full influence with all concerned to support non-violent political solutions to the existing problems.

The Government of Uganda is ready to enter into discussions with the Government of Zaire, to discuss agreements of non-aggression or any other mutually acceptable mechanism. Uganda supports the reconciliation efforts of the wise men and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Uganda is prepared for and welcomes international monitors at the border and any other confidence-building measures that will contribute to the search for a solution to these issues.

The Government of Uganda takes this opportunity to urge all Governments in the region to respect and adhere to the OAU Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other international conventions relating to the rights of citizenship and nationality.

The return of stability in the Great Lakes region is in the interest of all the nations, including Uganda.

The Government of the Republic of Uganda reaffirms its commitments to the policy of good-neighbourliness with all its neighbours but reserves the right to take whatever measures are necessary to protect the lives and the property of Ugandans.

Furthermore, the attention of the Government of Uganda has once again been drawn to allegations attributed to a senior Defence Ministry official in Kinshasa, which have also been quoted extensively in the international media,

that a cargo plane carrying Ugandan troops into eastern Zaire had crashed on the Zaire side of the Rwenzori Mountain area on the night of Monday, 10 February 1997. The same Zairian official claimed that several people had died in the crash and that survivors were captured by Zairian troops who were allegedly around the crash site. He also tried to cite this as evidence of Ugandan involvement in the Zaire civil war.

In this regard, the Government of Uganda wishes once more to deny any involvement in Zaire, including the above accusation, and state categorically that no Ugandan aircraft or personnel have flown into or are engaged in the war in eastern Zaire.

There is only one plane which flies between Entebbe and Kisangani. That plane is used by the World Food Programme to carry humanitarian relief items. It is owned by a private company called Scibe - a Zairian-based company. The plane itself is Zairian-registered. That plane flew to Kisangani, returned safely and clocked in at Entebbe Airport at 7.39 p.m. on 11 February 1997.

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LETTER DATED 21 FEBRUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

In accordance with instructions I have received, I would request you to circulate the text of the enclosed statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic on 21 February 1997 as a document of the Security Council (see annex).

(Signed) Eldar G. KOULIYEV
Permanent Representative

97-04566 (E) 240297 240297

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Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement issued on 21 February 1997 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan

Reports have recently been appearing in the mass media in the Russian Federation and a number of other countries about illegal deliveries of a large quantity of Russian weaponry to Armenia.

In particular, the "Interfax" agency transmitted on 14 February 1997 a report on a press conference given by the Minister for Cooperation with the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) of the Russian Federation, Aman Tuleyev, in the course of which the Minister referred to deliveries of weaponry to Armenia which had bypassed the President and Government of the Russian Federation. The Minister emphasized that this illegal activity was being engaged in by specific structures in the Russian leadership which, over the past two years, had sent to Armenia 84 T-72 tanks, 50 infantry fighting vehicles, and spare parts. This incident is not the only one in a series of reliable reports of the Russian Federation providing military assistance to Armenia, which committed armed aggression against Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan is particularly concerned at the fact that this activity reached significant levels after the ceasefire agreement of 12 May 1994, which Azerbaijan is continuing to observe, demonstrating political will despite the continuing occupation of its territory by Armenia. At the same time as Azerbaijan is firmly and consistently pursuing the course of a political settlement of the conflict, the duplicity of Armenia's policy is becoming ever more apparent; on the one hand, Armenia proclaims its alleged pursuit of the political path, while on the other hand it continues to build up its military potential in violation of international norms and obligations.

The Azerbaijani leadership has more than once drawn the attention of the world community to the fact that illegal actions of this kind are counter to the United Nations and OSCE decisions on the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, particularly Security Council resolution 853 (1993), the statement by the President of the Security Council of 18 August 1993 (S/26326) and the decisions of the CSCE Committee of Senior Officials of 24 February and 14 March 1992, which called for the halting of military supplies to the States involved in the conflict on the grounds that they promoted the escalation of the conflict and the continued occupation of Azerbaijani territory.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan notes that the issue of deliveries of Russian weaponry has aroused the concern of prominent politicians in the Russian Federation, and was the subject of special discussion at a plenary meeting of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, which instructed its committees on defence, security and CIS affairs and relations with Russians in the CIS countries to carry out a comprehensive study of this issue. The Ministry welcomes the official request by a member of the Government of the Russian Federation to that country's leaders, and also to the Military

Prosecutor's Office, to verify whether illegal deliveries had taken place. At the same time, Azerbaijan notes the statement made in an interview with the Armenian agency "Noyan Tapan" by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Armenia, Andrei Urnov, to the effect that the equipment in question entered Armenia under the terms of inter-State agreements between Armenia and the Russian Federation. In any event, the Russian military deliveries to Armenia undermine the authority of the Russian Federation as a mediator in the settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict.

The Ministry expresses the hope that as a result of the investigation of the military deliveries conducted by the competent Russian authorities and parliamentary committees, light will be shed on the degree of involvement of certain highly placed officials of the Russian Federation in this illegal activity, and that it will be properly appraised from both the legal and the political standpoint. The action of these individuals, guided above all by their own mercenary interests, has damaged and continues to damage not only the Russian mediation activity, but also bilateral Armenian-Russian relations, and in addition, in the view of a number of well-known Russian politicians, undermines the economy and defence capability of the Russian State.

The illegal deliveries of armoured vehicles to Armenia are a gross violation of the provisions of the Agreement on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. They confirm that Azerbaijan is right to be concerned at the numerous violations by Armenia of the agreement establishing OSCE, which Azerbaijan consistently explains to all parties to that agreement in multilateral and bilateral consultations. They reveal the sources of the considerable quantities of armaments and equipment and the ways in which they appear in parts of Azerbaijani territory occupied by Armenia. They confirm the justice of Azerbaijan's demands that appropriate measures should be taken to remove the arms and equipment illegally introduced by Armenia into the occupied Azerbaijani territories and to implement the agreement in our region in accordance with its provisions, which will serve the interests of all States parties to the agreement. The existing situation complicates efforts to find ways of solving the problem of flank limitations. It also negatively affects the atmosphere of the negotiations that are being started on the adjustment of the agreement.

Azerbaijan earnestly appeals to all States parties to the agreement which are concerned about these problems, and in the first place to the Russian Federation, to take all appropriate measures, and in particular to conduct, in accordance with the procedures specified in the OSCE agreement, comprehensive and full-scale inspections both in the territory of Armenia and in the Azerbaijani territories occupied by it for the purpose of identifying and subsequently removing illegal weaponry, and also to take steps to prevent this kind of illegal practice in the future.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan expresses the hope that the leadership of the Russian Federation will take very serious note of Azerbaijan's extreme concern at the illegal deliveries of weaponry to Armenia, and that the Russian reaction will be adequate and commensurate with the Russian Federation's international responsibilities, its role as facilitator in the settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, its authority, its national interests and the high

level of progressively developing inter-State relations between Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation.

Azerbaijan calls on Armenia to recognize that a settlement needs to be sought not by building up military potential, which could lead to a still further escalation of the crisis. It must be clear by now, in Armenia as well, that there is no other way of settling the conflict than by accepting the recommendations of the Lisbon Summit and, on the basis of the principles proposed by the Chairman-in-Office of OSCE and supported by all the member States of OSCE, renewing the negotiating process on a political settlement of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan that has caused so much suffering.